

the Committee and the final decision of the Government will be announced shortly.

Non-procurement of Rice from North Balasore by FCI

2684. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has not procured rice from North Balasore in Orissa;
- (b) whether the farmers in that traditional rice bowl areas of Orissa are facing problems going for distress sell due to FCI stopped procurement; and
- (c) if so, the steps taken to rescue the farmers and start the procurement of rice from North Balasore and other rice growing areas of undivided Balasore district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

During the current Kharif Marketing Season 1999-2000, Food Corporation of India has already procured 1,73,050 quintals of rice (upto 7-8-2000), from Balasore district of Orissa, which is much more than the quantity of 20,210 quintals procured last year. This is also much higher than the target of one lakh quintals fixed by the State Government. Procurement for the current Season is still on.

Roll Back of Price Hike of PDS items for North-Eastern States

2685. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have received any representation from the North-Eastern State's Chief Ministers regarding roll back